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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Thailand

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SUBJECT Developments in Chinese Community in Thailand
 following Communist Victory in China

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The sale of Chinese Communist literature is expanding rapidly in Thailand. The most popular item is Peace in China, the biography of MAO Tse-tung. The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) purchased large quantities of this book; however, they still allow it to be sold. All such literature is handsomely printed and prices are nominal.
2. On the day that Shanghai fell, a huge banner was strung across the Yawarat Road. It proclaimed in red letters "Shanghai Falls!".
3. The Central Labor Union (CLU), generally admitted to be Communist-organized, is now functioning openly and quietly from a modest new office in the Sathorn district. The old, spacious headquarters, in the lane off Silom Road, was abandoned after the November 8 Coup because it was too ostentatious. CLU leaders cancelled a May Day observance because of the unrest still remaining since the February 26 disorders.
4. Conservative Chinese and the Chinese Consulate regard the present leadership of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce as "leftish". The president, Nai Sahas Mahakhun, is accused by the Consulate of allowing Communists to infiltrate the membership. Mahakhun, according to available information, is essentially non-political and attempts to court Thai friendship. He successfully encourages the use of his Thai name rather than his Chinese name (CHANG Lan Chin). Mahakhun is chairman of a number of Chinese firms. He is also an adviser to the new Union Bank, of which AW Boon Haw is vice-president.
5. There has been no indication of Kuomintang (KMT) society members quitting because of the changing political situation*.

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6. Due to the political situation in China, the conservative Chinese group, as represented by the merchant clique, is making overtures to Phibul by indicating its willingness to cooperate in such matters as Chinese schools. These privately financed schools, which hitherto resisted any Thai courses in their curricula, are now willing to operate on that basis and under Thai supervision. TAN Siu Kim, a shipping operator, leads the conservative element. His brother, TAN Siu Meng, a former president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, was murdered in 1942.

25X1A * ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. This probably refers to those who have been active party members, rather than to the many who, in the past, may have professed a nominal allegiance.

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